DO NOT ENTER: /F.A./

10/16/2008

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 1. (Original) A system comprising:
  - a database;
  - a message server having no persistent state; and
- a plurality of instances of an application server implementing a Java application model coupled in a star topology with the message server at a center of the star topology, the plurality of instances sharing the database.
- 2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein each instance comprises:
  - a dispatcher node; and
  - a plurality of server nodes.
- 3. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein each server node comprises:
  - a java 2 enterprise edition (J2EE) engine.
- 4. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising:
  - a central lock server to provide cluster wide locks to the plurality of instances.
- 5. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the message server comprises: